

Message Text

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ACTION A-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 NSCE-00 CPR-01 USSS-00
SY-05 CCO-00 ICAE-00 PA-01 DODE-00 OC-06 OPR-02
SSO-00 /042 W
-----007078 031327Z /75
O 031200Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO AMEMBASSY MANILA NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4071

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 BANGKOK 12852

FOR DAVID BIEGING FROM DEBORAH SALE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (MONDALE, WALTER F.)
SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S VISIT TO THAILAND: QS AND AS
FOR PRESS IONFERENCE

PER PARTY'S REQUEST, FOLLOWING ARE QS AND AS FOR
USE AT PRESS CONFERENCE IN THAILAND.

1. SECURITY ASSISTANCE

Q. DOES THE UNITED STATES REGARD THE MANILA
PACT AS STILL IN FORCE?

A. YES, THE UNITED STATES CONTINUES TO HONOR THE MANILA
PACT.

Q. WHAT ARE THE UNITED STATES' OBLIGATIONS TO THAILAND
UNDER THE MANILA PACT?

A. UNDER OUR OBLIGATIONS IN THE MANILA PACT, THE UNITED
STATES WOULD ACT TO MEET A COMMON DANGER IN ACCORDANCE WITH
OUR CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESSES IN LIGHT OF PREVAILING CIRCUM-
STANCES.

Q. DOES THE UNITED STATES REGARD THE RUSK-THANAT COMMUNIQUE
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OF MARCH 6, 1962, AS STILL IN EFFECT?

A. OBVIOUSLY THE CIRCUMSTANCES PERTINENT AT THE TIME OF THE
COMMUNIQUE HAVE CHANGED. HOWEVER, WE CONTINUE TO RECOGNIZE
ALL OUR BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL OBLIGATIONS.

Q. WHY DOES THE UNITED STATES NOT PROVIDE MORE MILITARY
ASSISTANCE TO THAILAND?

A. THE UNITED STATES AND THAILAND HAVE A LONG HISTORY OF

CLOSE COOPERATION IN MEETING DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS. I HAVE ASSURED PRIME MINISTER KRIANGSAK THIS COOPERATION WILL CONTINUE WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF OUR ARMS TRANSFER POLICY.

WE ARE

CONTINUING FOREIGN MILITARY SALES CREDITS IN FISCAL 1978 OF ALMOST \$30 MILLION AND I HAVE INFORMED PRIME MINISTER KRIANGSAK THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO SELL AN ADDITIONAL SQUADRON OF 18 F-5 AIRCRAFT TO THAILAND. WE HAVE PROPOSED TO CONGRESS CONTINUATION IN FISCAL YEAR 1979 OF A FOREIGN MILITARY SALES PROGRAM TO THAILAND AT COMPARABLE LEVELS.

Q. WOULD THE UNITED STATES COME TO THE AID OF THAILAND IN THE EVENT OF AN ATTACK FROM VIETNAM OR CAMBODIA?

A. WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE SUCH A DEVELOPMENT. MOREOVER, WE STRONGLY SUPPORT THAILAND'S EFFORTS TO PROMOTE PEACEFUL DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION, NOTABLY IN ITS INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM, CAMBODIA AND LAOS, AS WELL AS WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

2. REFUGEES

Q. WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE NEW US PROGRAM FOR ACCEPTANCE OF 25,000 INDOCHINESE REFUGEES ANNUALLY?

A. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HAS INFORMED THE CONGRESS THAT HE INTENDS TO PAROLE 25,000 INDOCHINESE REFUGEES OVER THE NEXT 12 MONTHS. CONGRESS HAS BEEN AWARE OF THIS INTENTION FOR SOME TIME AND MAY OR MAY NOT HOLD HEARINGS AS PART OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONSULTATION PROCESS. IF HEARINGS ARE HELD, WE WOULD EXPECT THAT THEY WOULD BE COMPLETED IN THE NEAR FUTURE. WE EXPECT THIS PROGRAM TO START SOON.

Q. UNDER THE NEW US PROGRAM, WILL 25,000 REFUGEES ANNUALLY BE ACCEPTED BY THE UNITED STATES FROM THAILAND?

A. THE 25,000 REFUGEES WOULD COME NOT ONLY FROM THAILAND, BUT ALSO FROM MALAYSIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN EAST ASIA WHO HAVE ACCEPTED INDOCHINESE BOAT REFUGEES. OF THE 25,000 INDOCHINESE REFUGEES TO BE ACCEPTED OVER THE NEXT 12 MONTHS, WE DO EXPECT THAT A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER WILL COME FROM BOTH BOAT CASE AND LAND CAMPS IN THAILAND.

Q. THERE ARE NOW ABOUT 100,000 LAND REFUGEES IN THAILAND. WILL THE US PROGRAM INCLUDE THEM AS WELL?

A. THE US PROGRAM FOR ACCEPTANCE OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES IS DESIGNATED TO ACCEPT BOAT REFUGEES WHO ARE UNABLE TO RESETTLE ELSEWHERE, AND LAND REFUGEES WITH CLOSE ASSOCIATIONS TO THE US. WE THEREFORE ENVISION THAT UP TO HALF OF THE REFUGEES ACCEPTED ANNUALLY WILL BE LAND REFUGEES FROM THAILAND. WE RECOGNIZE THAT A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF LAND REFUGEES NOW IN THAILAND WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED BY OTHER COUNTRIES. WE HAVE INDICATED OUR WILLINGNESS TO ASSIST THAILAND FINANCIALLY IN THE PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT OF THE REMAINING LAND REFUGEES.

Q. THE ARRIVAL RATE FOR BOAT REFUGEES IN THAILAND AND MALAYSIA IS RUNNING AT A VERY HEAVY RATE. WILL THE US PROGRAM BE ABLE TO ABSORB THESE REFUGEES?

A. WE BELIEVE THAT WITH A US PROGRAM TO ACCEPT 25,000 INDO-CHINESE REFUGEES OVER THE COMING 12 MONTHS, THE US, ALONG WITH THE SIGNIFICANT EFFORTS OF AUSTRALIA, FRANCE, CANADA AND OTHERS WILL INSURE THAT LOCAL REFUGEES WHO REACH TEMPORARY ASYLUM IN SOUTHEAST ASIA ARE RESETTLED PERMANENTLY ELSEWHERE.

Q. WHY DOES THAILAND HAVE TO BEAR THE BURDEN OF OVER 100,000 INDOCHINESE REFUGEES?

A. WHY ISN'T THE UNITED STATES ACCEPTING ALL OF THESE REFUGEES?

A. SINCE THE SPRING OF 1975, THE UNITED STATES HAS ACCEPTED OVER 25,000 INDOCHINESE REFUGEES WHO HAVE SOUGHT TEMPORARY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ASYLUM IN THAILAND. OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE ACCEPTED OVER 33,000 REFUGEES FROM CAMPS IN THAILAND. THE UNITED STATES IS ESTABLISHING A PROGRAM FOR ACCEPTANCE OF ANOTHER 25,000 INDOCHINESE REFUGEES OVER THE NEXT 12 MONTHS AND WILL ACCEPT INDOCHINESE REFUGEES THEREAFTER ON A CONTINUING BASIS. THE CARE AND MAINTENANCE COSTS OF REFUGEES IN THAILAND ARE BORNE BY THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR), SUPPORTED BY CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MANY COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE US.

Q. WHY DOES IT TAKE SO LONG FOR REFUGEES APPROVED BY THE UNITED STATES PROGRAM TO DEPART THAILAND FOR THE UNITED STATES WHEN OTHER COUNTRIES ARE ABLE TO MOVE REFUGEES MUCH MORE QUICKLY?

A. THE US PROGRAM FOR RESETTLEMENT OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES RELIES ON SPONSORSHIPS FOR THE REFUGEES FROM INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS IN THE UNITED STATES. THE PROCESS OF OBTAINING A SPONSORSHIP SUITABLE FOR AN INDIVIDUAL REFUGEE FAMILY REQUIRES A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF TIME. ONCE SUCH A SPONSORSHIP IS OBTAINED, THE REFUGEE MOVES WITHIN ABOUT A MONTH TO THE UNITED STATES. SOME OTHER COUNTRIES ARE ABLE TO TRANSPORT REFUGEES MORE QUICKLY OUT OF THAILAND BECAUSE THE REFUGEE IS INITIALLY PLACED IN A RECEPTION CENTER RATHER THAN WITH AN INDIVIDUAL. WHILE SLOWER, WE BELIEVE OUR APPROACH ALLOWS FOR AN EARLIER INTEGRATION OF THE REFUGEES INTO AMERICAN SOCIETY.

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ACTION A-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 NSCE-00 CPR-01 USSS-00
SY-05 CCO-00 ICAE-00 PA-01 DODE-00 OC-06 OPR-02
SSO-00 /042 W

-----007111 031327Z /75

O 031200Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO AMEMBASSY MANILA NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4072

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 BANGKOK 12852

FOR DAVID BIEGING FROM DEBORAH SALE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (MONDALE, WALTER F.)
SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S VISIT TO THAILAND: QS
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P3. NARCOTICS

Q. DID PRIME MINISTER KRIANGSAK DISCUSS WITH
YOU THE POSSIBILITY OF THE US SUPPLYING THAILAND WITH
ADDITIONAL HELICOPERS FOR USE IN ANTI-NARCOTICS
ACTIVITIES?

A. THE PRIME MINISTER AND I DID DISCUSS
NARCOTICS AND WHILE I DO NOT WISH TO REVEAL THE
DETAILS OF OUR DISCUSSIONS AT THE PRESENT TIME, I
CAN SAY, THAT WE HAVE PLAYED A SUPPORTIVE ROLE IN
THE THAI NARCOTICS CONTROL EFFORT IN THE PAST,
AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT THAI
EFFORTS IN THIS AREA IN THE FUTURE.

IN GENERAL TERMS, WE WILL PROVIDE APPROXIMATELY
\$1.5 MILLION DURING FISCAL YEAR 1978 FOR
NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING ENFORCEMENT,
AND SUBJECT TO CONGRESSIONAL ACTION, WE EXPECT TO
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PROVIDE A SIMILAR AMOUNT DURING HE NEXT FISCAL YEAR.

QM WHAT IS YOUR VIEW OF THE THAI CROP
SUBSTITUTION PROGRAM, ANS WILL THE UNITED STATES
SUPPORT SUCH EFFORTS?

A. WE ARE MOST ENCOURAGED BY THE THAI
CROP SUBSTITUTION EFFORT, HAVE SUPPORTED THIS EFFORT
IN A VARIETY OF WAYS IN THE PAST, AND WILL CONTINUE
TO SUPPORT IT IN THE FUTURE. THE UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT HAS HELPED THROUGH BOTH OUR DEPARTMENT

OF AGRICULTURE AND THE UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR
DRUG ABUSE CONTROL.

WE ARE FAVORABLY IMPRESSED WITH THE THAI
GOVERNMENT'S NEW PLAN FOR A PROJECT IN THE MAE CHAEM
WATERSHED AREA, AND I HAVE TOLD THE PRIME MINISTER
THAT WE WILL SERIOUSLY CONSIDER A REQUEST FOR
ASSISTANCE ON THIS PROJECT. CONGRESS HAS ALREADY
ALLOTTED \$300,000 FOR CROP SUBSTITUTION IN THIS
FISCAL YEAR, AND THE ADMINISTRATION HAS REQUESTED
\$300,000 FOR THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR.

Q. HOW WILL RELATIONS BETWEEN THAILAND
AND BURMA EFFECT THE EFFORT TO CONTROL THE FLOW
OF NARCOTICS FROM THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE?

A. THAILAND'S EFFORT TO INTERDICT THE
NARCOTICS FLOW FROM THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE HAS CONTINUED
TO SHOW GOOD RESULTS. THAI ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS
HAVE SEIZED LARGE AMOUNTS OF NARCOTICS SEVERAL
TIMES DURING THE PAST MONTH, AND ARRESTED
SEVERAL IMPORTANT NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS. SIMILARLY,
BURMA, WHICH HAS JUST COMPLETED THE MOHEIN IV
OPERATION AIMED AT DISRUPTING THE NARCOTICS
TRAFFICKING GROUPS IN THE NORTHERN THAI-
BURMA BORDER AREA, HAS PUT AN IMPRESSIVE EFFORT
INTO NARCOTICS CONTROL.
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4. AMERASIAN CHILDREN

Q. IN VIEW OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S CENTRAL
CONCERN WITH HUMAN RIGHTS, I WONDER IF YOU ARE AWARE
OF THE PLIGHT OF THE SEVERAL THOUSAND AMERICAN
CHILDREN LEFT BEHIND BY THEIR GI FATHERS AND WHAT
RESPONSIBILITIES, IF ANY, YOU CONSIDER THE US GOVERNMENT
HAS TOWARDS THESE CHILDREN?

A. THE WELFARE OF THESE NEARLY FOUR-THOUSAND
CHILDREN DOES CONCERN US AND THE THAI GOVERNMENT AS
WELL. OUR SENATE NOW HAS BEFORE IT A BILL WHICH WOULD
ASSIST THESE CHILDREN.

AS YOU KNOW, THE THAI CITIZENSHIP OF THESE
CHILDREN HAS BEEN IN SOME DOUBT SO WE WERE
PARTICULARLY PLEASED WHEN THE THAI GOVERNMENT RECENTLY
CONFIRMED THAT THESE CHILDREN DO INDEED HAVE A CLAIM
TO THAI CITIZENSHIP.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BANGKO12852
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780188-0734
Format: TEL
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780599/aaaadgto.tel
Line Count: 272
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ee30b2a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION A
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2810748
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S VISIT TO THAILAND: QS AND AS FOR PRESS CONFERENCE PER PARTY'S REQUEST, FOLLOWING ARE QS AND AS FOR
TAGS: OVIP, (MONDALE, WALTER F)
To: MANILA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ee30b2a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014